



Focus Sheet

Proposals For Environmental Cleanup at Hanford's 100-N Area

U.S. Department of Energy • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Washington State Department of Ecology

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Washington State Department of Ecology, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Tri-Party Agencies, are seeking public comment on proposed plans for clean up of contaminated soil sites and groundwater; treatment, storage, and disposal units; and contaminated facilities located in the 100-N Area along the Columbia River on the Hanford Site (see map). The closure plans for contaminated facilities, permit conditions for the treatment, storage, and disposal units, and the corrective actions and permit conditions for the other waste sites will also be available for public comment. **Public comments will be accepted from March 16 to April 29, 1998.** All public comments will be considered and responded to before a final decision is made. **A public hearing will be held on April 2, 1998, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, WA State Department of Ecology, 1315 W. 4th Avenue, Kennewick, WA.**

DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

- *Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Actions at the 100-NR-1 Source Sites Operable Unit and the 100-NR-2 Groundwater Operable Unit, DOE/RL-96-102, Revision 0.*
- *Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Action of the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Units and Associated Sites in the 100-NR-1 Operable Unit, DOE/RL-97-30, Revision 0.*
- *Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the 100-N Area Ancillary Facilities and Integration Plan, DOE/RL-97-22, Revision 1.*
- *100-NR-1 Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Units Corrective Measures Study/Closure Plan, DOE/RL-96-39, Revision 0.*
- *Corrective Measures Study for the 100-NR-1 and 100-NR-2 Operable Units, DOE/RL-95-111, Revision 0.*

To request copies of the documents, or to submit comments either written or electronically, please contact:

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WA State Department
of Ecology
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-3029
e-mail: phillip_r_staats@rl.gov

Or call the
Hanford Cleanup
Toll-free Line at
1-800-321-2008.

BACKGROUND

The 100-N Area is located in the north central part of the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington along a section of the Columbia River known as the Hanford Reach. Some of the buildings, surrounding soils and groundwater in this area were contaminated during operation of the 100-N Reactor. The contamination poses a potential threat to public health and the environment.

BACKGROUND (cont'd)

As determined in the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement)*, the 100-NR-1 and 100-NR-2 Operable Units require corrective action under the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)*, as implemented through the Washington Administrative Code. Additionally, the treatment, storage and disposal units require closure under RCRA.

The Tri-Party Agencies are electing to combine corrective actions and closure under RCRA and remedial actions under the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)*. By applying CERCLA authority concurrently with RCRA authority, all regulatory and environmental obligations at these operable units will be addressed more effectively and efficiently.

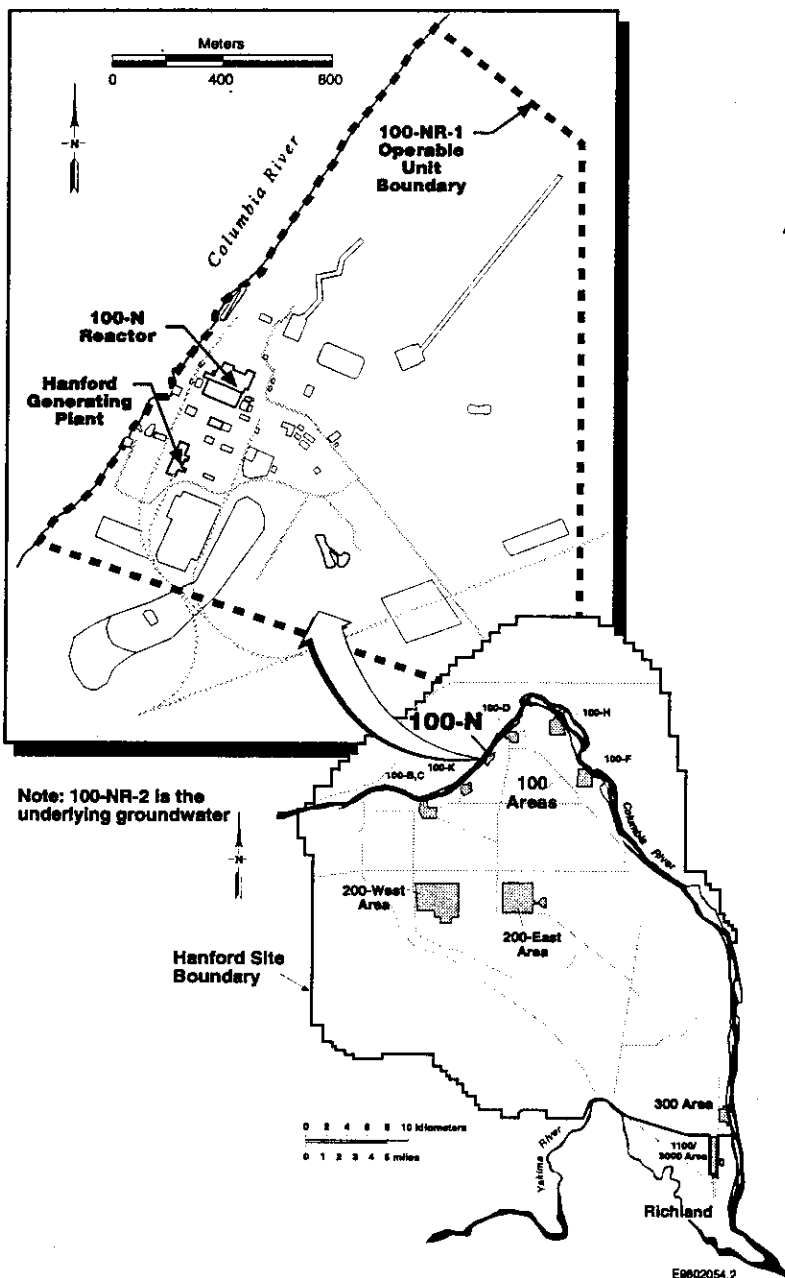
The option to dispose of waste at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) is possible when applying CERCLA authority jointly with that of RCRA. By allowing flexibility in final disposal options, the Tri-Party Agencies can minimize disposal costs while remaining fully protective of human health and the environment. The four areas that require cleanup and the preferred cleanup alternatives are:

▲ **Treatment, storage and disposal units within the 100-NR-1 Operable Unit:** includes four treatment, storage and disposal units (cribs and trenches) and two associated soil sites.

Preferred Alternative: remove and dispose of contaminated soil and associated structures in three units (116-N-1, 116-N-3, UPR-100-NR-31). Remove liners, structures, and associated pipelines in the remaining units (120-N-1, 120-N-2, 100-N-58) where no contaminated soil exists. After removal the area will be backfilled, regraded, and revegetated.

▲ **100-NR-1 Soil Operable Unit:** contains 113 potentially contaminated soil sites, associated pipelines and the shoreline site. Of these 113 sites, 32 are proposed as needing no action. The remaining sites fall into one of five groups: radioactive, petroleum, inorganic, burn pits and surface solid wastes. Included among the 113 sites are 11 waste units associated with the Hanford Generating Plant. The Hanford Generating Plant produced electricity for commercial use from the steam coming from the 100-N Reactor while it was in operation.

Preferred Alternative: different cleanup actions will be conducted for the different types of waste sites: 1) radioactive, inorganic, burn pit and surface solid waste sites soil will be removed and disposed of; 2) near surface petroleum waste site soil will be excavated, treated with clean soil being returned to the site and contaminated soil being disposed of; and 3) deep petroleum waste site soil will be treated in the ground. No soil remediation will take place along the shoreline area pending further investigation. Access restrictions will be maintained on the shoreline site. This does not affect the operation of the pump and treat system.



▲ **100-NR-2 Groundwater Operable Unit:**

includes contaminated groundwater underlying the 100-N Area. Strontium-90 is the contaminant of greatest concern in the groundwater. Other contaminants include tritium, several inorganic contaminants, and petroleum products.

Preferred Alternative: operation of the existing pump and treat system designed to remove strontium-90 contamination and reduce flow of contaminated water to the Columbia River will continue, while additional information is being gathered. In addition, petroleum will be recovered from existing wells using a skimming system.

▲ **100-N Area Ancillary Facilities:** includes fifty-two (52) potentially contaminated facilities (such as buildings, structures, and pipelines) that are designated to undergo decontamination and decommissioning.

Preferred Alternative: surveillance and maintenance will continue until decontamination and decommissioning is performed. The sites and facilities described in this document will be cleaned. Disposal of the generated waste will be placed in ERDF. Clean structures will be buried in place.

REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES

Remedial alternatives were analyzed under two land use scenarios: 1) the rural-residential scenario assumes that people will eat food (either plant or animal) grown or raised on the land, and 2) the ranger/industrial scenario assumes that food would not be grown on the land, people would not live on the land, and the property would be used only for recreation or industrial purposes. In both scenarios, groundwater would not be used from wells; rather, the water would be supplied from a public water supply system.

The preferred alternatives support future rural-residential land use. A variety of remedial alternatives and corrective actions were evaluated for each of the four components requiring cleanup. Based on the assessment of the CERCLA criteria and the RCRA performance standards, the preferred alternatives are protective of human health and the environment. They provide long-term effectiveness, permanence, and use available technologies and equipment.

These preferred alternatives are consistent with records of decisions signed by the Tri-Party Agencies for other 100 Area sites at Hanford. The cleanup remedy will be selected only after public review and comment. All public comments will be considered.

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations:

PORTLAND

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
Tri-Party Information Repository
934 SW Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690
Attn: Michael Bowman

SEATTLE

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
(206) 543-4664
Attn: Eleanor Chase

RICHLAND

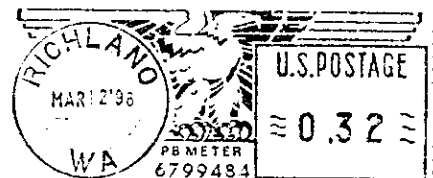
U.S. Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101L
(509) 376-8583
Attn: Terri Traub

SPOKANE

Gonzaga University
Tri-Party Information Repository
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
(509) 324-5932
Attn: Tim Fuhrman

Hanford Cleanup Toll-free Line: 1-800-321-2008

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